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## CLAIMS

- A stiffener to provide stiffening support to one of a thin-core and coreless substrate of an integrated circuit printed circuit board (IC-PCB) carrier package.
- A stiffener as claimed in claim 1, the IC-PCB carrier package being one of a flip chip pin grid array (FC-PGA) and a flip chip ball grid array (FC-BGA) carrier package.
- 3. A stiffener as claimed in claim 1, the stiffener is substantially made of at least one of a metal-like, plastic-like, glass-like and ceramic-like material, is one of a molded, stamped, etched, extruded and deposited stiffener, and is capable of withstanding high temperatures of at least one of an IC die bonding operation and normal IC operation.
- A stiffener as claimed in claim 1, the stiffener being planar for mounting to a die-side major planar surface of the substrate.
- A stiffener as claimed in claim 1, the stiffener having an internal window therein to
  provide clearance for at least one of a die, under-fill, die side components (DSC), and integrated
  heat spreader (IHS).
  - 6. A stiffener as claimed in claim 1, the stiffener being a multi-part stiffener.

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- 7. A stiffener as claimed in claim 1, the stiffener having an above-substrate-plane height when mounted, which is less-than or equal to an above-substrate-plane height, when mounted, of one of: an IC-die, and a combination of an IC-die with an integrated heat spreader (IHS).
- 8. A stiffener as claimed in claim 1, the stiffener having a top surface above a substrateplane when mounted, which is substantially co-planar with, when mounted, a top surface of one of: an IC-die, and a combination of an IC-die with an integrated heat spreader.
- A stiffener as claimed in claim 8, the stiffener being adapted to co-support a heat sink, with one of: an IC-die, and a combination of an IC-die with an integrated heat spreader (IHS).
- 10. A stiffener as claimed in claim 1, where if a main body of the stiffener is electrically conductive, the stiffener further includes an insulator to electrically insulate electrical members on stiffener-opposing areas of the substrate.
- A stiffener as claimed in claim 1, the stiffener being an edge stiffener for mounting to minor-planar side-surfaces of the substrate.
- A stiffener as claimed in claim 1, the edge stiffener having a non-flat cross section which is adapted to mate with the side-surfaces of the substrate.

- 13. A stiffener as claimed in claim 1, where the edge stiffener is adapted to be pre-attached to the substrate by an IC-PCB carrier package manufacturer.
- 14. A thin-core or coreless integrated circuit printed circuit board (IC-PCB) carrier package comprising: a stiffener to provide stiffening support to one of a thin-core and coreless substrate of the IC-PCB carrier package.
- 15. An IC-PCB carrier package as claimed in claim 14, the IC-PCB carrier package being one of a flip chip pin grid array (FC-PGA) and a flip chip ball grid array (FC-BGA) carrier package.
- 16. An IC-PCB carrier package as claimed in claim 14, where the stiffener is substantially made of at least one of a metal-like, plastic-like, glass-like and ceramic-like material, is one of a molded, stamped, etched, extruded and deposited stiffener, and is capable of withstanding high temperatures of at least one of an IC die bonding operation and normal IC operation.
- 17. An IC-PCB carrier package as claimed in claim 14, the stiffener being planar and mounted to a die-side major planar surface of the substrate.
- 18. An IC-PCB carrier package as claimed in claim 14, the stiffener having an internal window therein to provide clearance for at least one of a die, under-fill, die side components (DSC), and integrated heat spreader (IHS).

- An IC-PCB carrier package as claimed in claim 14, the stiffener being a multi-part stiffener.
- 20. An IC-PCB carrier package as claimed in claim 14, the stiffener having an above-substrate-plane height, which is less-than or equal to an above-substrate-plane height, when mounted, of one of: an IC-die, and a combination of an IC-die with an integrated heat spreader (IHS).
- 21. An IC-PCB carrier package as claimed in claim 14, the stiffener having a top surface above a substrate-plane, which is substantially co-planar with, when mounted, a top surface of one of: an IC-die, and a combination of an IC-die with an integrated heat spreader.
- 22. An IC-PCB carrier package as claimed in claim 21, the stiffener being adapted to co-support a heat sink, with one of: an IC-die, and a combination of an IC-die with an integrated heat spreader (IHS).
- 23. An IC-PCB carrier package as claimed in claim 14, where if a main body of the stiffener is electrically conductive, the stiffener further includes an insulator to electrically insulate electrical members on stiffener-opposing areas of the substrate.
- An IC-PCB carrier package as claimed in claim 14, the stiffener being an edge stiffener mounted to minor-planar side-surfaces of the substrate.

- 25. An IC-PCB carrier package as claimed in claim 14, the edge stiffener having a non-flat cross section which is mated with the side-surfaces of the substrate.
- An IC-PCB carrier package as claimed in claim 14, where the edge stiffener is pre-attached to the substrate by an IC-PCB carrier package manufacturer.
  - 27. A packaged integrated circuit (IC) comprising:

a thin-core or coreless integrated circuit printed circuit board (IC-PCB) carrier package comprising a stiffener to provide stiffening support to one of a thin-core and coreless substrate of the IC-PCB carrier package.

- 28. A packaged IC as claimed in claim 27, the IC-PCB carrier package being one of a flip chip pin grid array (FC-PGA) and a flip chip ball grid array (FC-BGA) carrier package.
- 29. A packaged IC as claimed in claim 27, where the stiffener is substantially made of at least one of a metal-like, plastic-like, glass-like and ceramic-like material, is one of a molded, stamped, etched, extruded and deposited stiffener, and is capable of withstanding high temperatures of at least one of an IC die bonding operation and normal IC operation.
- A packaged IC as claimed in claim 27, the stiffener being planar and mounted to a die-side major planar surface of the substrate.

- 31. A packaged IC as claimed in claim 27, the stiffener having an internal window therein to provide clearance for at least one of a die, under-fill, die side components (DSC), and integrated heat spreader (IHS).
  - 32. A packaged IC as claimed in claim 27, the stiffener being a multi-part stiffener.
- 33. A packaged IC as claimed in claim 27, the stiffener having an above-substrateplane height, which is less-than or equal to an above-substrate-plane height, when mounted, of one of: an IC-die, and a combination of an IC-die with an integrated heat spreader (IHS).
- 34. A packaged IC as claimed in claim 27, the stiffener having a top surface above a substrate-plane, which is substantially co-planar with, when mounted, a top surface of one of: an IC-die, and a combination of an IC-die with an integrated heat spreader.
- 35. A packaged IC as claimed in claim 34, the stiffener being adapted to co-support a heat sink, with one of: an IC-die, and a combination of an IC-die with an integrated heat spreader (IHS).
- 36. A packaged IC as claimed in claim 27, where if a main body of the stiffener is electrically conductive, the stiffener further includes an insulator to electrically insulate electrical members on stiffener-opposing areas of the substrate.

- 37. A packaged IC as claimed in claim 27, the stiffener being an edge stiffener mounted to minor-planar side-surfaces of the substrate.
- 38. A packaged IC as claimed in claim 27, the edge stiffener having a non-flat cross section which is mated with the side-surfaces of the substrate.
- A packaged IC as claimed in claim 27, where the edge stiffener is pre-attached to the substrate by an IC-PCB carrier package manufacturer.